

Personal News and Gossip of the Government Departments

Post Office

Officials and clerks alike in the Post-office Department are taking great interest in the revival of the salary increase subject. The table of increases proposed by Representative Davis' measure, as published in The Times on Wednesday afternoon, meets with almost universal approval in the department. A clerk in the department calls attention to the fact that statistics compiled by the Government show that from 1896 to 1901 the average retail cost of ordinary articles of food used in the United States advanced almost 17 per cent. It is also stated that throughout the postal service and among the 25,000 clerical employees in Washington, as well as in the customs and internal revenue service there have been no advances in pay to meet the rise in cost of food, clothing, and shelter. The pay of letter carriers, for example, remains precisely where it was fixed twenty years ago by an act approved on January 3, 1887.

Postmaster General Cortelyou is on record as favoring an increase in the salaries of postal employees, a position in which he is strongly sustained by the Assistant Postmaster General. It is believed by the officials of the department that it is necessary to increase the compensation of the employees in order to check the great drain on the service that comes from the large number of resignations being constantly filed.

This is especially true in the rural carrier service, the resignations in which run about 500 per month.

Wedding Gift for Clerk.

A happy incident occurred in the recording division of the sixth auditor's office at the close of business on Wednesday afternoon. The employees of the division had raised a handsome purse and purchased a nice piece of silverware to be presented to F. D. Sken, a clerk of the division, as a wedding gift. Mr. Sken was lured out of his room momentarily and in his absence his desk was decorated with ribbons and flowers. On his return he was dumfounded to find all his co-workers lined up in the room and his desk decorated. In the front ranks stood Captain Beldon, chief of the division, who elegantly performed the duty of presenting the token. Mr. Sken responded briefly, admitting that he was too much affected by the display of friendship to speak at length. Mr. Sken was married to Miss Elizabeth E. Plathier, formerly of the Government Printing Office, at the Church of the Incarnation on Thursday evening at 7 o'clock by the pastor, the Rev. William T. Snyder. Mr. and Mrs. Sken will board for several weeks previous to going to housekeeping.

Resignation of Captain White.

The resignation of Capt. James E. White, for the past sixteen years general superintendent of the railway mail service, will take effect Saturday next, February 3. Capt. White has been connected with the postal service for forty years and is regarded as one of the best postal and most efficient officials in the department. Captain White retires because of failing health, and with Mrs. White will make his home with relatives near Philadelphia in the future. Postmaster General Cortelyou has written Captain White a letter expressing the department's appreciation of the valuable work he has done for it.

Notes and Personals.

H. B. Hall, assistant superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances, with headquarters at Los Angeles, Cal., who has been in the city for several days on business connected with the department, left the first part of the week for his post of duty.

S. B. Rathbone, assistant superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances, stationed at Indianapolis, Ind., was at the department a few days ago on official business.

M. R. Loring, of the division of dead letters, has been transferred from the register section and placed in charge of a branch of the opening section, on the eighth floor. He has been succeeded at the register desk by Henry M. Camp, who was assigned from the money section.

Harry E. Randall, clerk in the office of the chief postoffice inspector, has been promoted to an inspector's position, and for the time being is to be assigned to duties in the Western States. He left Monday for his new field.

James C. Towers, chief of the opening section of the dead letter office, spent the past week in North Carolina with his wife, who is visiting there. He is expected to return to the department Monday.

W. E. Cochran, purchasing agent for the department, left Friday for Cleveland, Ohio, where he will be for several days on official business.

Miss Sarah A. Prender, clerk in the office of the Auditor for the Postoffice Department, has been transferred to the Postoffice Department and assigned to the division of dead letters.

H. B. Mosley, of Jackson, Miss., post-office auditor and referee for the State of Mississippi, spent several days in Washington last week and was a caller at the department on official business.

William Noble, postmaster of South McAlester, Indian Territory, who has been in the city for several days attending to official business, and also attending the executive sessions of the League of Republican State Clubs, left Wednesday for his home.

Dr. John A. Holmes, assistant superintendent of the division of salaries and allowances, is making an extensive trip through Eastern States on official business that will probably detain him for several days.

Miss Effie B. Hull, of the division of supplies, is being congratulated more or less profusely because she is enjoying the distinction for the time being of having captured one of those prizes in this department—a promotion. She goes from \$900 to \$1,000.

Mrs. Minor Robinson, of the auditing division, was taken ill at the department on Tuesday and was conveyed to her home. She is suffering from a severe case of grip, much to the regret of her friends, who wish for her speedy recovery.

J. H. McTeer, of the auditing division, returned to the department Thursday after an illness of several days. He was a victim of the grip epidemic that has been raging more or less in this and other departments for several weeks.

J. C. Buley, of the auditing division, was called away from the department on Wednesday by the serious illness of his brother-in-law, Lee Grimm.

Marine Hospital Service

List of changes of station and duties of commissioned and non-commissioned officers of the Public Health and Marine Hospital Service for the seven days ended January 23, 1907:

Rupert Blue, passed assistant surgeon, granted leave of absence for two days from January 22; January 23, 1907.

R. J. Lloyd, passed assistant surgeon, ten days' leave of absence granted from December 31, amended to read twelve days; January 22, 1907.

R. S. Warren, passed assistant surgeon, granted leave of absence for five

days from January 18; January 18, 1907.

French Simpson, assistant surgeon, relieved from duty at Baltimore, Md., and directed to proceed to Fort Stanton, N. M., reporting to medical officer in command for duty and assignment to quarters; January 22, 1907.

M. R. Mason, pharmacist, granted leave of absence for seven days from January 15, 1907, under paragraph 210 of the service regulations.

Assistant Surgeon J. S. Burgess, commissioned as passed assistant surgeon, January 12, 1907.

to take a place as immigrant inspector for the Government at Galveston, Tex. He has departed for his new field.

The Garrodette, foreman of section eight, is among those who were taking leave last week.

J. B. Guire, plate printer in section one, who has been at his home ill with the grip for several days past, is reported to be about recovered, and is expected to report for duty Monday.

Richard Baker, plate printer, in section six, lost his young son by death, on Friday morning of the past week, who died at his home in this city after a protracted illness. The remains have been taken to New York city for interment. Mr. Baker's many friends sympathize deeply with him in his grief.

Six months ago a citizen stood bewildered before the newstand at the army publications. If all this was "fresh, recent, timely, modern, and up-to-date," how could he make any pretense of being abreast of the times without familiarizing himself with their contents? But now the newstand is a perfect myopic maze, and a man staggered away with a sense of utter incapacity after reading the cover pages. So far from being "abreast of the times," a man feels after consulting the newstands as if he were thirty revolutions behind the earth. It was no wonder that the making monthly magazines there is no end. Put from urging a bonfire of the 5,000 magazines of American garbure, we still stay for the codifying offices of a Justina—Detroit Free Press.

STRENGTH OF BEVERAGES.

Wine of medium strength contains 15 to 19 per cent of alcohol; port wine, 15 per cent; sherry, from 15 to 21 per cent; champagne 10 to 12 per cent; beer averages from 2 to 5 per cent; whisky, about 5 per cent; brandy, about 50 per cent—Automobile Magazine.

Bureau of Engraving and Printing

That the growth of the bureau continues is evidenced by the fact that the number of employees on the rolls Thursday was the largest ever employed. A singular thing also is the fact that the number is in round figures—3,500 being the exact number of employees carried on the lists on that day. The bureau is one of the busiest places in Washington and is destined ultimately to be one of the largest establishments in the city, as the demand for its product will continue to grow coincident with the prosperity and development of the country.

Miss Ella O'Day, an employee of the power press room, recently resigned her position, and was married on Wednesday evening at 5 o'clock to Albert Farrell, a well known business man of Second and G streets northeast, at St. Aloysius Church. After the ceremony the bride party left for New York city to spend a portion of their honeymoon. Returning stops will be made at Philadelphia and Atlantic City. Thomas and James Farrell, brothers of the bridegroom, are employed in the bureau.

John R. Hill, chief of the engraving division, has been at his home for several days on account of an attack of the grip.

William H. Smith, plate printer in section six, recently resigned his position in the bureau.

Mrs. J. C. Whitehead, a popular young guide of the watch force, has returned recently a pleasant visit to friends in Norfolk, Va.

O. J. Palmer, of the wetting division, recently resigned his position in order

Govt. Printing Office

In the recent death of Henry Weldon Gray the Government Printing Office lost one of its oldest and most faithful employees. He had been with the office almost from the first and was recognized by every succeeding Public Printer as a valuable and trustworthy employee.

Mr. Gray died at his home on New Jersey avenue of Bright's disease after an illness of less than one week. He was a native of this city and sixty-four years of age. Besides the widow, Harriet A. Gray, nee Abbott, there survive two sons and one daughter, George A. and Henry Weldon Gray, Jr., of this city, and Mrs. A. R. Lamb, of Guatemala city, wife of a former prominent member of the Washington Police Department, who is now director general of police in that city.

In 1861 Mr. Gray served a three months' enlistment in Capt. Deane's company, Fifth Battalion, District of Columbia Militia Infantry Volunteers. He also did service in the District National Guard with rank of corporal. He was a member of Farragut Post, G. A. R., members of which acted as pallbearers, and also of Columbia Typographical Union, No. 101.

Mr. Gray had been connected with the office for forty years, and at the time of his death was in charge of the vault where all the confidential work is stored. Mr. Gray leased his trade in this city. His father was also connected with the office previous to his death, first as business partner of Cornelius Wendell when the office was a private one, and later as foreman of the press room under Public Printer DeFrees.

Prominent among the moving spirits identified with the Columbia Poultry and Pigeon Association, which has just closed a successful exhibition in this city, the name of John R. Risdon, vice president of the society, appears. It seems just a short time ago, though it is several years, since Mr. Risdon was a valued employee of the bindery. He commenced to dabble in poultry and fancy eggs in a small way, sort of a "sundown farmer," as the envious ones call the calling. Soon the hen business grew. Spacious grounds were secured at Riverdale. A little judicious advertising brought quick returns, as it always does, and orders for Mr. Risdon's quality stock poured in from all parts of the country. In fact, Mr. Risdon's poultry interests got so big that his Government job seriously handicapped his usefulness as a chicken farmer, and he threw up the job. A recent visit to his hatcheries revealed a handsome flock of fowls and many busy incubators working every hour of the twenty-four.

The distinction of being the swiftest and most accurate monotype operator in the Government Printing Office now belongs, according to gossip, to Stanley H. Ridings, of the fifth division, who has lately been detailed as a keyboard instructor. Mr. Ridings is a young man and has not been in the shop more than five or six years. His adaptability to this form of typesetting machine is said to be scarcely short of marvelous. To make the assertion that Mr. Ridings can and does set a "census" page of nonpareil tabular matter in little over an hour is sufficient to cause an old hand compositor to gasp for breath. All printers in the big shop are familiar with the dimensions of a page of census matter. The number of nonpareil ems, tabular measure, is about 2,900, which would be a pretty good day's work at the case, even with lots of quads and leaders thrown in. Mr. Ridings puts out a complete page in just sixty-five minutes, and no doubt he could do the job within the hour if the foreman wanted it in a particular hurry. Nimble keyboard action, coupled with a retentive memory that enables him to carry in his mind several groups of figures with one glance at the copy, are the prime secrets of his success. The monotypes nowadays are developing a number of speedy operators, who are assured good positions if they choose to quit the Government service. Miss Jewett and Miss Brown are notably fast operators, and so is Jack Donohoe, now acting as instructor in the fourth division. Then there is "Doc" Frank Welch, whose fondness for the machines has reached the point where he makes a grave question whether he will in the near future resign to personally look after a rapidly growing dental practice or cling to the keyboard, and the doctor is a good dentist, too.

Abner C. Proctor has been adjudged as of unsound mind by a jury in Justice Barnard's court, and committed to St. Elizabeth's Asylum. Mr. Proctor was a compositor at various times in the printing for many years, and is well known to the old timers. He has been afflicted for some time by mental and physical troubles, and there are hopes that a season of treatment at the Government institution will prove beneficial.

Marceline Swartzfader, having had a surflet of swan life in the District suburbs, where the electric cars trolley along once occasionally, has removed with his family to apartments on New Jersey avenue.

Another cut in the rate of the eight-hour strike assessment is momentarily expected. It is stated by officials of Columbia Union that the conditions are fast reaching the point where it will be possible for the executive council of the International to make a further reduction, probably to 2 per cent. The strike is said to be won practically in Baltimore, Pittsburgh, Chicago, and a number of other cities.

There has been no charge in the rate of pay for printers in the office since March 3, 1899, although official reports show the cost of food to have greatly advanced in that time. According to a statement recently published by the wages of printers in private book publishing or job printing establishments for the same period have advanced throughout the United States as follows: Compositors, male, 14.67 per cent; press feeders, female, 25.59 per cent; press feeders, male, 2.41 per cent; press feeders, female, 21.57 per cent; pressmen, 11.75 per cent.

Leo V. Hyman, of the office of the superintendent of documents, who is detailed to Andy Smith's force at the Capitol, was best man at the wedding of James A. Edgar, Jr., clerk at the Columbia National Bank, and Miss Susie A. Berch, of 1313 Twenty-fourth street northwest, which took place at the residence of the Rev. John Guthrie in Baltimore a few days ago.

The large amount of work in the office of the superintendent of documents has necessitated a larger force of clerks for the time being. The following clerks have been certified to the office by the Civil Service Commission during the past week for temporary duty: Misses D. H. Johnson, C. B. Moore, M. D. Elison, A. M. Tolpelt, Ada Mixson, and A. Z. Collett.

Charles S. Brown, who recently resigned the position of chief inspector at the office, arrived in the city Tuesday from Michigan and registered at Hotel Raleigh.

Mord Hyman, until recently connected with the fifth division, has been transferred from the division of supplies to a position in the office of the Superintendent of documents, at a compensation of \$2.50 per day.

William Bierley, of the watch force, been away for several weeks, continues ill at his home in this city.

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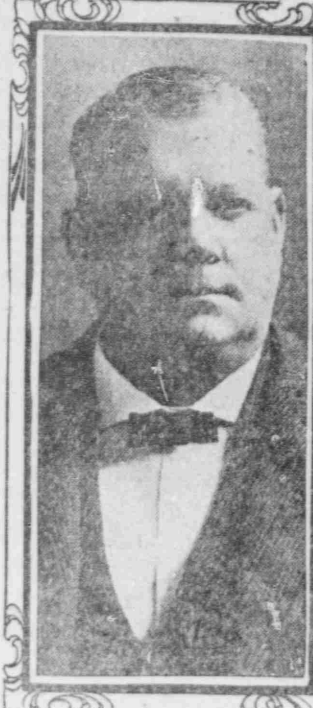
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WAS VETERAN PRINTER



HENRY WELDON GRAY, For Forty Years at the Government Printing Office.

afternoon. That evening he was operated on for an abscess on the brain. The physicians pronounced his case an extremely bad one, but he is now showing some improvement.

Joseph Mitchell, of the document division of the bindery, enjoyed several days' leave during the past week.

J. T. Ford, of the document division of the bindery, has resumed his duties in the office, after an illness of several days.

Charles Goldthwaite, of the document division of the bindery, has returned to the office after a pleasant visit to points in Indiana, having been away for forty-five days.

Thomas B. Clancy, who has been ill at his home, 19 Myrtle street northeast, for the past three weeks, is reported to be slightly improved. Mr. Clancy is a bicycle messenger in the office of the foreman of printing.

Ben Boland, messenger in the office of the chief clerk, who was injured by being accidentally struck in the right eye with a book, has been away from the office the latter part of the week in order to give treatment to the injured member. He is reported to be in grave danger of losing the sight of that eye.

Ellis G. Myers has recently been transferred from the fifth division to the "Y" in the first division, and promoted from compositor to a position as maker-up.

Fred L. Davis, proofreader in the fifth division, has been ill at his home for the past week with the grip. He is reported to be somewhat improved.

Charles Sperle, of the stock room, superintendent of document's division, returned to the office Thursday after being confined for a week to his home in Brookland, threatened with pneumonia.

Public Printer Stillings, Chief Clerk Brian, and Foreman of Printing Young were interested auditors at the session of the Joint Committee on Printing at the Capitol on Thursday afternoon, when the bids for supplying the office with paper for the next fiscal year were opened.

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War

Thomas P. Chapman, of the draftsman branch, returned from Omaha, Neb., last Monday.

Mr. Chapman was suddenly called home on account of the severe illness of his father, reaching home a few days before his death, which occurred on the 5th inst.

Mr. Chapman has many friends who sympathize with him in his sad bereavement.

Mrs. Mary P. Bond, of the property branch, has been confined to her home for the past week with the grip.

George K. Finkel, of the accounts branch, was absent a part of last week on account of the death of a sister.

C. H. Stone, topographical draftsman, who has been absent from his duties for the past ten days on account of influenza, returned to duty in the quartermaster general's office last Friday.

John T. Power, of the typewriters' room, and whose home is in Baltimore, was detained from his desk for nine days on account of a sore foot.

Conrad H. Unger, of the clothing branch, very kindly remembered the boys Thursday with a box of cigars.

Commerce & Labor

At the annual installation of officers in Washington Council, Royal and Select Masters, at Masonic Temple on Monday evening, Roger O'Donnell, chief of the corresponding division in the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, who retired from the position of master after two successful terms, was presented a handsome past master's jewel. The occasion was one of much moment in council circles. Henry Clay Larabee, of Baltimore, general grand master of the General Grand Council of Royal and Select Masters of the United States, was present and conducted the ceremonies of installation. A number of masters and past masters from Maryland and visitors from other jurisdictions were present. During the evening an elegant banquet was served in the banquet hall of the Temple. William T. Hastings, foreman of the war division of the Government Printing Office, was installed as master for the ensuing term.

Morris R. Bevington, of the Bureau of Immigration and Naturalization, who is president of the law class of '07, of the National University, was toastmaster at the annual banquet of the law classes of that institution. He has been the recipient of many congratulations during the week from his co-workers and fellow-students. Mr. Bevington is from Indiana and has made many friends in the department since coming here a few years ago.

Herbert A. Stevens has been promoted from a clerical position at \$1.50 per annum, to the position of confidential

clerk to the Secretary of the department, at \$1,000 per annum. He entered upon his new duties last week.

Clyde A. Wood, who has been employed as a clerk by the Isthmian Canal Commission, has received a transfer to this department and been assigned for clerical duties to the division of supplies.

Henry R. Wasser, who has been employed at the National Museum as a clerk in the \$720 grade, has been transferred to the office of the Light House Board and promoted to the \$840 grade.

Reuben J. Christman, draftsman in the Coast and Geodetic Survey at \$100 per month, tendered his resignation to the department on Tuesday.

Thomas J. North has been promoted from messenger boy, at \$40 per annum, to assistant messenger, at \$75 per annum, in the office of the Secretary.

A. L. Giacomini, of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, has been promoted from the position of watch officer, at \$120 per month, to a similar position at \$125 per month.

Edward B. Tiller, plate printer's helper, employed in the Coast and Geodetic Survey, has tendered his resignation.

Mahlon F. Ludwig, clerk in the Bureau of Standards, has been promoted from \$60 to \$1,000 per annum.

Victor L. Lowe, of the District of Columbia, has been appointed clerk in the Bureau of Standards at a salary of \$900 per annum.

Animal Industry, who has been visiting relatives and friends in the West, has returned to the city.

J. Ross Burgess has been given a temporary appointment as architect of the dairy division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, and entered upon his duties the past week.

F. R. Travel, of the Bureau of Animal Industry, who has been absent on a few days' annual leave, is expected to return to duty this week.

E. A. Bennett, formerly of the office of accounts of the Bureau of Animal Industry, has been transferred to the supply room of the bureau and placed in charge of the stamps and supplies sent out to the different stations in the field, and keeping the record of same. Mr. Bennett, previous to his transfer to the Bureau of Animal Industry, was supply clerk of the forest service.

Felix T. Moore, of the appointment clerk's office, has been transferred to the chief clerk's office and assigned to duty as time clerk of the department, vice H. H. Walters transferred to the Bureau of Chemistry.

Duncan Stuart, of the dairy division of the Bureau of Animal Industry, left the past week for a short trip to Louisville, Ky.

CHICAGO PHYSICIAN SAYS

WOMAN IS A WALKING BONFIRE

"The modern woman is a walking bonfire, only waiting for a naked light to come anywhere in her immediate neighborhood to burst into flame."

The above sentence is from a letter from a leading physician, who asks for reasons of professional etiquette that his name may not be quoted.

"In spite of the various warnings which have been issued from time to time," he continued, "women still persist in decking themselves with celluloid ornaments, and this in spite of the knowledge that the heat thrown out from a fireplace may result in the horrible fate of death by burning."

The woman who goes out calling fastens her hair with celluloid hairpins, which are made in a variety of colors to match each gown. She adds a couple of jeweled celluloid sidecombs and a celluloid slide set with paste.

The straw or felt hat is trimmed with bunches of celluloid grapes, currants or cherries, and stabbed by a pair of celluloid-headed hatpins.

She wears a pair of celluloid rings for her ears in a delicate shade of turquoise blue, with a necklet of celluloid beads to match.

A celluloid buckle set with jewels or hand-painted clasps her waistband. Celluloid buttons fasten her gloves. A celluloid holder raises her dress in muddy weather.

The dancing girl is in the same predicament.

Celluloid sequins cover her gown with glittering embroideries. Wreaths of celluloid fruits deck her hair or a pink celluloid camellia is fastened beside a "Marguerite" plait.—Chicago Chronicle.

District Building

Julian Hargrove, inspector of cement and asphalt, his friends say, is the best posted and best read man in this city, and one of the best in the country, on the subject of cement, concrete, and asphalt, and one of the closest students of those subjects to be found anywhere.

He is a regular reader of a dozen or more technical magazines treating cement and asphalt, and in addition reads a large number of magazines and periodicals on municipal improvements to keep in touch with all modern methods, equipping himself with invaluable information that make him one of the most valued men in the District of Columbia employ. He is a member of the National Geographical Society and a frequent contributor to trades and technical publications and magazines. Mr. Hargrove's admirers say he will not attend a theater without taking with him a copy of some current number of a technical magazine to read between the acts.

D. D. Stansell, of the accounts branch, returned to duty the first of the week, after having been absent five days on account of sickness.

Miss Ada Brown, of the ordinance office, was promoted from clerk, class \$900, to clerk, class \$1,000, January 21.

Charles E. Burner, of the District, was appointed assistant messenger, at \$90, in the quartermaster's office last Wednesday.

Samuel E. Pauline, of Chelsea, Mass., received an appointment as clerk, class \$840, in the quartermaster general's office Tuesday.

Frank B. Hunt, of the reservation branch, was absent from his desk Wednesday enjoying the balmy, wintry air.

Clare E. Wood, who has been employed as a clerk by the Isthmian Canal Commission, has received a transfer to this department and been assigned for clerical duties to the division of supplies.

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